

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
UG Course Syllabus

Japanese Language and Culture for Beginners II

LANG2200

3 credits

Pre-requisites: N/A

Co-requisites: N/A

Name of Course Leader: Masayuki HIRATA

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Office Hours of Course Leader: Available by appointment only. Students should contact their section instructor directly with any questions.

Course Description

LANG2200 is a continuation of [LANG1210](#). This is a comprehensive course for **upper-beginners** with knowledge equivalent to *Minna no Nihongo* Lessons 1 – 12, covering listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

Who Should Enroll:

- **Upper Beginners:** The enrollment for this course is limited to upper beginners whose Japanese level is below N3 for JLPT. This course is suitable for students who wish to continue their Japanese study after taking LANG1210 or whose knowledge of Japanese is equivalent to *Minna no Nihongo* Lessons 1 – 12, covering listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.
- **Entry Quiz and Beginner Declaration Form:** Students are required to take an entry quiz to prove that they are upper-beginners (below N3 level) and submit a beginner declaration form to register for this course.

Course content:

- **Fundamentals of Japanese:** Students will cover topics such as fundamental Japanese verb conjugations, style differences, complex sentences, noun modifications, and the subjunctive mood.
- **Integrated Skills for Japanese:** You will learn the fundamental skills in the Japanese language, including speaking, listening, writing, reading, basic grammar, and related Japanese culture in this course.
- **Textbook Coverage:** We will use the following textbook, covering Lessons 13 to 25:
『大家的日本語 初級 II 改訂版』 *Minna no Nihongo Shokyu II* 2nd Edition (大新書局, 2015)

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Use approximately 1,000 vocabulary words to describe everyday activities and experiences.
2. Apply fundamental Japanese grammar structures for effective communication.
3. Conduct basic conversations to express desires, give instructions, and seek permission.
4. Distinguish and apply polite and plain forms in social interactions.
5. Use kanji in writing structured sentences and short texts.
6. Adapt communication to align with Japanese cultural norms.

Assessment and Grading

This course will be assessed using criterion-referencing and grades will not be assigned using a curve. Detailed rubrics for each assignment are provided below, outlining the criteria used for evaluation.

LANG 2200 Assessment Overview

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Schedule *
Mid-Term Quiz (Written & Listening)	35%	Week 6-7
Final Quiz (Written & Oral)	45%	Weeks 12–13
Culture Presentation (Group)	10%	Week 10
Participation (Pop Quizzes & In-class Writing)	10%	Throughout Term

* For the exact dates of assessment tasks, please refer to the information on the course Canvas site.

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Mid-term Quiz	CILO-2, CILO-3, CILO-5	Assesses students' ability to apply grammar (CILO-2), conduct basic conversations (CILO-3), and use kanji in writing (CILO-5). Includes written and oral components.
Final Quiz	CILO-1, CILO-2, CILO-3, CILO-4, CILO-5, CILO-6	Evaluates vocabulary usage (CILO-1), grammar (CILO-2), conversation skills (CILO-3), style distinctions (CILO-4), kanji writing (CILO-5), and cultural appropriateness (CILO-6).
Culture Presentation	CILO-1, CILO-2, CILO-3, CILO-4, CILO-6	Assesses ability to express ideas using vocabulary and grammar (CILO-1, CILO-2), conduct conversations (CILO-3), apply appropriate language styles (CILO-4), and demonstrate cultural understanding (CILO-6).
Participation	CILO-1, CILO-2, CILO-3, CILO-4, CILO-5, CILO-6	Includes pop quizzes and in-class writing. Tests vocabulary (CILO-1), grammar (CILO-2), conversation (CILO-3), style use (CILO-4), kanji writing (CILO-5), and cultural norms (CILO-6).

Grading Rubrics

Detailed rubrics for each assignment are provided on Canvas. These rubrics clearly outline the criteria used for evaluation. Students can refer to these rubrics to understand how their work will be assessed.

Final Grade Descriptors:

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use Vocabulary and Grammar: Demonstrates exceptional ability to use approximately 1,000 vocabulary items and complex grammatical structures to express ideas clearly and accurately.• Conduct Conversations: Engages fluently in basic Japanese conversations, including expressing desires, giving instructions, and seeking permission.• Apply Language Styles: Skillfully distinguishes and applies polite and plain forms in appropriate social contexts.• Use Kanji in Writing: Writes structured sentences and short texts using kanji with high accuracy.• Demonstrate Cultural Understanding: Shows deep understanding of Japanese cultural norms and integrates them effectively into communication.
B	Good Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use Vocabulary and Grammar: Uses a wide range of vocabulary and grammar with minor errors that do not impede understanding.• Conduct Conversations: Participates actively in conversations with good fluency and clarity.• Apply Language Styles: Applies polite and plain forms appropriately in most situations.• Use Kanji in Writing: Uses kanji effectively with occasional errors.• Demonstrate Cultural Understanding: Demonstrates good awareness of Japanese cultural norms and applies them in communication.
C	Satisfactory Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use Vocabulary and Grammar: Uses basic vocabulary and grammar with frequent errors that sometimes affect clarity.• Conduct Conversations: Communicates basic ideas but with limited fluency and accuracy.• Apply Language Styles: Attempts to use polite and plain forms but with inconsistent application.• Use Kanji in Writing: Uses kanji with noticeable errors and limited range.• Demonstrate Cultural Understanding: Shows basic

		understanding of cultural norms but lacks depth or consistency.
D	Marginal Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Vocabulary and Grammar: Struggles to use vocabulary and grammar accurately; errors often hinder comprehension. • Conduct Conversations: Limited ability to engage in conversations; responses are often unclear or incomplete. • Apply Language Styles: Misuses or fails to apply appropriate language styles. • Use Kanji in Writing: Kanji usage is minimal and frequently incorrect. • Demonstrate Cultural Understanding: Demonstrates minimal understanding of cultural norms.
F	Fail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Vocabulary and Grammar: Unable to use vocabulary and grammar effectively; communication is incoherent. • Conduct Conversations: Fails to participate in basic conversations. • Apply Language Styles: No evidence of understanding or applying language styles. • Use Kanji in Writing: Kanji usage is absent or severely flawed. • Demonstrate Cultural Understanding: Shows no understanding of Japanese cultural norms.

Course AI Policy

At HKUST, we embrace innovation and technology, including Generative AI. Some of the assignments in this course aim to foster innovative thinking by using chatbots for both language learning and cultural exploration.

Our approach relies firmly on pedagogical principles, with an ethical commitment to ensure fairness in the use of AI. If students use AI tools in course assessments, they must adhere to the principles of academic integrity.

To learn more about how to use GenAI tools appropriately in language courses, students are required to complete a Canvas learning module developed by the Center for Language Education. This module can be found on the course Canvas site. Students should ensure they have completed it before attending class.

Communication and Feedback

Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be communicated via Canvas within two weeks of submission. Feedback on assignments will include strengths and areas for improvement where relevant. Students who have further questions about the feedback including marks should consult the instructor within five working days after the feedback is received.

Resubmission Policy

Resubmissions are not accepted, except in exceptional circumstances.

Required Texts and Materials

Course materials and additional resources are provided via Canvas.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to [Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.